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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: ECL-115

SEP 28 1999

Honorable Colleen Cawston, Chair
Colville Business Council
The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Dear Chairwoman Cawston:

This is written in follow-up to my letter of August 30, 1999, regarding the Petition you submitted on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The Petition requests that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") conduct a Preliminary Assessment ("PA") of the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant on lands which include the Colville Reservation and the Upper Columbia River Basin from the Canadian Border, southward through Lake Roosevelt, to the Grand Coulee Dam, encompassing the water, river- and lake-beds, and banks.

On September 22, 1999, members of my staff met with representatives of the Colville Tribes and its legal counsel to discuss the Petition. The meeting provided for a helpful exchange of information pertinent to the Petition and the site assessment process. As discussed during the meeting, EPA will be conducting multiple PAs in response to the Petition. The sites to be assessed will be added to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database. CERCLIS is a database used by EPA to track site-specific activities conducted under its Superfund Program.

EPA intends to involve the Tribes throughout the assessment process and welcomes its input. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monica Tonel of my staff at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

Chuck Clarke

Chuck Clarke
Regional Administrator

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cc: Richard A. Du Bey, Short Cressman & Burgess

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